



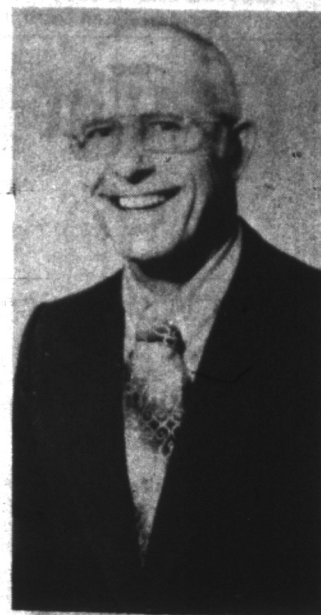
# The Baptist L...

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Published Since 1877

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1977

Volume CI, Number 41



## Bryant Elected To MBCB Staff

Hollis Bryant has been elected to the staff of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. He will serve as consultant in the Cooperative Missions Department in charge of in service guidance, and rural church ministry.

## FMB Needs 1,406 More Missionaries

RICHMOND (BP)—An average of four persons a day must apply and be accepted for missionary appointment in 1978 if the urgent personnel needs of Southern Baptists' 89 mission fields are to be met, a Foreign Mission Board spokesman has emphasized.

Louis R. Cobbs, the board's secretary for missionary personnel, said 1,406 new missionaries have been requested to reinforce, replace, and begin new work on the Southern Baptist mission fields.

Once again the top priority need is for general evangelists, the "preacher" missionaries who work with pastors overseas, train church leaders, start mission points and churches, and help established churches grow. A total of 282 job requests are in this category, Cobbs said.

The 1977-78 personnel needs, submitted after annual meetings of missionaries in each country, also call for 44 more theological education teachers, 39 student or youth workers, 36 doctors, 27 nurses and six dentists.

Also urgently needed are 21 music promotional workers, 19 secondary and eight elementary school teachers, 18 religious education workers, 12 agriculturalists, 10 mass communications specialists, and nine pastors for English-language churches, plus smaller numbers requested for other types of jobs.

These add up to 650 different job requests involving as many as 1,261 people. In addition there are 145 requests for missionary journeymen, the program in which recent college graduates go overseas for two years.

Of the non-journeyman requests, 39 are specifically for single persons. Another 159 could be filled either by a couple or single person, but are counted as "couple" requests to arrive at a total number of missionaries needed. The remaining 452 requests are for couples.

The list covers career missionaries, missionary associates, special project medical workers, and journeymen, but does not include the hundreds of short-term volunteers expected to go overseas under Southern Baptists' new Mission Service Corps and other volunteer programs.

Cobbs noted that the requests this year show an increase of 76 over the 1,330 sought for 1976-77. But thus far,

only 228 of these earlier requests have been filled.

The range of opportunities this year is wider than ever, Cobbs pointed out. Although two-thirds of the jobs require formal seminary training, other requests seek persons to fill such varied positions as book store or business managers, secretaries and bookkeepers, publications workers, agriculturalists or veterinarians, and social workers.

## Brotherhood's BMT Focus Will Be On Ministry

"I think that the Brotherhood's biggest project in Bold Mission Thrust is Focus on Ministry," said Norman Godfrey, member of the Brotherhood Commission staff.

Focus on Ministry is a convention-wide Brotherhood project to identify and meet the needs of people. It challenges churches to look at mission fields in their own communities.

The Associational Guidebook for Focus on Ministry states that Focus on Ministry "is concerned with people who have special needs who are not enrolled in the church programs or being reached by the church. . . . They are people who need a witness and a continuing concern." They are people who are "separated from Christ by such man-made barriers as poverty, illiteracy, race, health, geography, or alcoholism."

The Brotherhood Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention is suggesting that two surveys be made in order to pinpoint where mission ministries are needed.

First, associations are to survey agencies and institutions. The infor-

mation sought will be primarily in the county seat town. Members of the missions committee or Brotherhood committee will arrange for interviews with directors of various agencies and institutions to determine the type of needs known among people in the county (as illiterates or school dropouts or prisoners.)

Second, the churches are to conduct community surveys. The people in the community who need a special ministry and who may be reached through the witnessing relationship must be found. Names and addresses of individuals must be discovered. When these people and their needs are known a positive program can be planned to meet their needs and carry the gospel to them.

Brotherhood and Woman's Missionary Union are closely cooperating in many projects, in an effort to reach the people of this land for Christ by 1980 and to carry the Gospel message to all the world by the year 2000.

"The fact that they are cooperating so well is probably as bold as anything either agency has ever done," said the director, editor of World Mission Journal.

One joint project developed by the Brotherhood Commission and Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, is Missions Night Out. This is aimed primarily at church members who are not regularly involved in Brotherhood or WMU. It is for the entire family. Any size church can sponsor it.

The Brotherhood Commission and WMU jointly produced a Missions Night Out Resource Booklet, which is available from Baptist book stores.

This booklet suggests such projects as a dinner theater, many family mission projects, a world hunger dinner, a missions pray-a-thon, several interfaith witness projects, a study of the biblical basis of missions, plans for a missions vacation trip for families or church groups. There are also plans for a musical Missions Night Out program, a missions olympics, a missions fair, and numerous missions meals.

The Brotherhood Commission, SBC, is committed to helping communicate Southern Baptist plans for Bold Mission Thrust. World Mission Journal, a Brotherhood publication, printed a special issue in October introducing Bold Mission Thrust and its goals.

A four-page special edition of World Mission Journal is now being distributed to more than 250,000 Baptists. It is the first of three such special editions throughout the next year. Additional special editions will be published in February and in June, 1978.

The first issue, because of the emphasis on foreign missions in December, focuses on opportunities for long-term (one to two-year) volunteer missions service overseas. The February edition will focus on long-term volunteer opportunities in home missions, and the June issue will emphasize the involvement of laymen in every area of life.

Other mission magazines of the Brotherhood Commission, will pro-

vide resource materials for Bold Mission Thrust.

The Baptist Men's Handbook for 1977-78 suggests 17 practical projects Baptist Men's groups can do in Bold Missions.

## Golden Gate Adds World Missions Chair

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)—The Baker Cautchen Chair of World Missions will be a featured part of the newly approved World Mission Center at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, according to William M. Pinson Jr., seminary president.

In recent action, the seminary trustees approved the concept of the center and of the endowed chair, named in honor of the executive director of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Mission center is for all aspects of missions—home, foreign, state and associational, Pinson pointed out. "We have been working closely with the Home Mission Board and the state Baptist conventions of the west developing our missions emphasis, and the Baker James Cautchen Chair of World Missions will be one means of implementing the foreign mission aspect of the center," he said.

Concerning the seminary's decision, Bill Self, president of the Foreign Mission Board, said, "Such a visionary move is worthy of Dr. Cautchen and of the seminary and is in keeping with the new boldness in the missions that has gripped Southern Baptists' through the denomination's Bold Mission Thrust."

Francis DuBose, professor of missions at the seminary, said, "For Southern Baptists, the name Baker James Cautchen means missions. The seminary itself is in a mission setting, one aspect of which is numerous ethnic, religious and national groups in the area."

W. Morgan Patterson, dean of academic affairs at Golden Gate, indicated that the Baker James Cautchen Chair of World Missions was one part of an extensive program for expanding even more the missions emphasis of the seminary.

"Through a faculty and student body and in a setting international in scope, we intend to increase education and research programs for missionaries, mission volunteers, and church leaders in keeping with the Bold Mission Thrust of Southern Baptists," he said.

## State Missions

Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering income for Jan. 1 - Nov. 14, is \$203,764.45. Goal for the year is \$275,000.

## Baptist Building Display

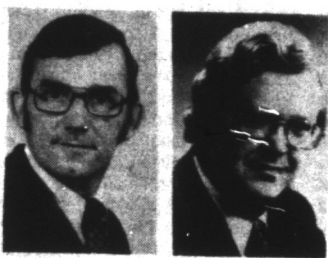
This Bold Mission Thrust display will be in the Baptist Building lobby to remind visitors of the task ahead.

## January Bible Study Preview At MC, Nov. 22

The annual January Bible Study preview is Nov. 22 at Mississippi College in Clinton. Roy Honeycutt of Southern Seminary will teach the study for pastors entitled "Exodus: Called for Redemptive Mission." Don Stewart of William Carey College in Hattiesburg will teach the youth Bible study entitled "Find Yourself in Genesis."

Special features of the preview which begins at 9:30 a.m., running till 5 o'clock, include: a session on how to promote the January Bible Study in the local church, to be led by Ralph Murray of the Sunday School Board; teaching procedures and techniques; and various displays.

A buffet luncheon will be served at



Stewart Honeycutt

the college at a cost of \$4, however Mississippi College is paying one-half of the meal). Your cost is \$2. Reservations are requested by Nov. 18 to Sunday School Department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205.

## Church Administration

## Banquet Opens Pastor, Staff, Deacon Retreat

The pastor, deacon, church staff and wives, retreat at Ridgecrest Baptist Church in Jackson is set for Dec. 2-3,

beginning at 5 p.m. Friday Dec. 2. Purpose of the retreat is to aid these persons in skill development and equipping for ministry, plus offering a relaxed atmosphere for fellowship and sharing.

The retreat, sponsored by the church administration-pastoral ministries department of the convention board, features Lambert Mims, public works commissioner for Mobile, Ala., Ray Martin, retired government worker in Jackson, and Martha Nelson, homemaker and author of several books with a Christian woman's slant.

Tom Larrimore, Jackson-based music evangelist will lead the music for the retreat.

A banquet at 5:30 on Friday will begin the retreat at a cost of \$3.50 per person. The evening session begins at 6:30. Pre-registration is necessary, but the banquet is optional. Write for reservations to: Leon Emery, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205.

## Webb Joins Staff Of Home Board

ATLANTA (BP)—For the first time the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board will have a language missions staffer who can interpret deaf culture to the hearing, says the board's language missions director, Oscar Romo.

During the November Home Mission Board directors meeting here, Rodney Webb, 33, the son of deaf parents, was named assistant director of the language missions department, with responsibility for ministries with the deaf and other language groups.



Webb

Webb, coordinator of language work for the Mississippi Baptist Convention and an appointed home missionary, will assume the position on Jan. 1, 1978. Before joining the Mississippi Convention in 1975, he was a Home Mission Board missionary to the deaf in north-east United States for six years.

A Florida native, Webb is a graduate of Carson-Newman College and holds a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and Suzanne Chaffin Webb have three children.

Romo noted that although the language missions department has a national consultant for ministries with the deaf, Carter Bearden who is deaf, the difference will be that Webb can identify with the hearing culture, as well as with the deaf culture.

"Webb, who can hear, has grown up in the culture of deafness and because of this he is able to add both dimensions to the work," Romo added.

Webb also will give emphasis to cross-cultural outreach for churches and provide a closer emphasis and relationship to work among Arabs. He will serve as a language missions administrative liaison with the western states.

Romo said there are about 650 deaf church groups within the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC)—including 14 separate deaf congregations, one Southern Baptist church building managed and owned by the deaf, and two deaf churches that cooperate with the SBC—totaling nearly 4,000 deaf persons attending an SBC church on a given Sunday.



## Brotherhood Rally Packs House

What are these men laughing at? They're laughing at the antics of the Ladies Washboard Band from Morrison Heights Baptist Church in Clinton. The man with the broadest laugh in the center of the picture at left is Jimmy Allen, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and featured speaker for the Brotherhood Rally in Jackson where the band played.

## Board Adds Staff, Approves Disaster Relief

Mississippi Baptists moved into disaster relief operation in a significant way this week when the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board authorized the purchase of a large tractor and trailer and funded the equipment to make it functional.

The funds will come from recent State Missions Offerings that were so designated.

The board also voted to add Hollis Bryant, director of associational missions in Calhoun Association, to the Convention Board staff and named Eugene D. Swindle as the director of religious activities at William Carey College.

Bryant will be added to the staff of the Cooperative Missions Department on Dec. 1 as consultant for in-service guidance and rural church director. He replaces Therman Bryant, who died last July. The two Bryants were not related.

R. Raymond Lloyd, pastor of First Baptist Church, Starkville, reported for the business advisory committee in recommending the purchase of the tractor and trailer. A used 1972 Chevrolet tractor will be purchased for \$3,200, which, it was reported, will put it in first-class shape. The 40-foot moving van to carry the equipment will be purchased for \$3,000. In addition \$5,000 was authorized for equipping the van, \$2,500 for equipping a four-wheel vehi-

cle already owned, and \$500 for training disaster workers. The four-wheel drive vehicle was to have been used at Central Hills Baptist Retreat before a pause was called in construction there. The disaster equipment will be under the supervision of the Brotherhood Department and be stationed at Kosciusko until Central Hills is completed. It will be moved to the retreat grounds for permanent stationing.

This action will take about \$15,000 of disaster relief funds already on hand and leave about \$20,000 in the fund.

P. A. Michel, pastor of First Church, Brookhaven, reported for the Personnel and Policy Committee in recommending the election of the two new

staff members.

Mel Craft, pastor of Tylertown Baptist Church, Tylertown, reported for the Pastoral Aid and Building Aid Committee. The board authorized pastoral aid in the amount of \$7,200 for six pastors—\$1,200 each. They are at the Mexican Mission at Bolivar Association; Bexley in George Association; Union in Pearl River Association; and Bett, New Hope, and Sarah in Tate County.

Building aid authorizations totaled \$11,000 for 12 churches. They are Pearl Valley in Copiah, Pine Lake and East Moss Point Mission in Jackson, Mt. Olive in Lauderdale, Union Ridge in Leake, Indian church in Neshoba,

Union in Pearl River, Troy in Pontotoc, Providence in Rankin, Bethel and Salem in Smith, and Bluff Springs in Webster.

Hayes Callicutt reported that \$30,000 had been expanded from the new church expansion fund to establish a mission at Florence. This expenditure purchased the site, and a mobil chapel is being used.

Brooks Wester, pastor of First Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, and chairman of the Gulfshore construction committee, reported that the administration building and living quarters will be completed and furnished in a few weeks. The Convention Board authorized \$465,000 for completion of

such projects as renovating the staff dormitories, taking care of additional harbor work, building a tennis court and other recreation courts such as handball and racketball, landscaping, landfill, building a new fence, and installing some new sewer pipe. If a suit that has been filed in regard to the burning of the old gymnasium is settled favorably, the figure will be cut in half.

The formal opening of Gulfshore will be May 5 with James L. Sullivan, retired president of the Sunday School Board and former Southern Baptist Convention president as speaker.

Retiring board members were recognized. The president, Gene Triggs, was one of those recognized.



# The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Editorials

### Bold Witnessing . . .

## John Set The Example

The central concept of Bold Mission Thrust is witnessing. We can find a pattern for boldness and for witnessing in John the Baptist. Surely John was bold, for he was the first witness to confirm the ministry of Christ. And his method of witnessing establishes a pattern that cannot be improved — "Behold the Lamb of God."

A bit later he said, "And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

No doubt it took some amount of courage to stand in the face of the religious delegation from Jerusalem that was sent out to determine who he was. At that point he was the lone herald of the fact that the ministry of Christ was about to begin.

It even took some amount of courage on the part of John to resist letting the priestly interrogators make him into something he was not. Harking back to the closing verses of the Old Test-

tament, they were looking for Elijah.

Then John had begun to experience some kind of a following on his own, but he did not hesitate to begin to dismantle his own group when his efforts at witnessing led in that direction. He turned to his own disciple, Andrew, and declared, "Behold the Lamb of God." Andrew thereupon became a follower of Christ and thus began a parade of disciples that has not ended to this day.

So John's witness was as effective as it was bold and his simple directive was, "Behold the Lamb of God."

Mississippi Baptists, with this week's convention, are moving into the full stride of Bold Mission Thrust. If our mission is to be accomplished, we must approach it with boldness. No halfway measures are going to work if we are going to move very far in the direction of accomplishing the goals that have been placed before us.

There is no reason for a lack of boldness. If we believe in the Lord we re-

present in our testimony, we certainly must understand that He is able and willing to sustain us in our efforts.

Yet how many multiplied millions of Christians in Mississippi and all over the world go about their business day after day, year after year, without a word of testimony concerning the Lamb of God. Many people are born, make professions of faith, live their lives, and die without ever providing a meaningful testimony as to their faith in Christ.

Bold Mission Thrust is a call to change that pattern of life. John gave us the reason for changing such a pattern when he said, "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

Surely we owe our neighbors an opportunity to find that eternal life.

Bold witnessing is one of the three factors of Bold Mission Thrust along with bold committing and bold teaching.

### Bold Mission Thrust . . .

## Failure Not An Option

Admiration is due the West German government for its recent dealing in a forthright and courageous manner with a group of terrorists who had hijacked a German airplane. The same is true for the Israeli government in freeing hostages being held in Uganda.

People of deviant purposes more and more are trying to force their wills on the mainstream of humanity, which is trying to maintain a normal lifestyle and go about its business in a responsible and respectable manner.

These terrorists come with a variety of causes to challenge them, and for the most part we think of them as being overseas somelace. But not all are.

The Muslims who took over several buildings in Washington, D.C., several months ago are to be recalled. Of more recent note is the group that invaded the NBC building in New York recently because an interview with Anita Bryant for the Today show was being taped there. Because of the

threats and repression that she has known for several months, Miss Bryant was fearful of a live interview on the program, and it was taped instead.

These terrorists don't want rights. They want unrestricted freedom. They want license to do anything their warped viewpoints would lead them to. No matter that the remainder of us don't have that sort of license and don't want it, such completely unrestricted way of life is their goal.

Who knows how to deal with these people? The world holds its breath everytime such a group asserts itself. Their demands carry such ominous threats that it is almost impossible to think rationally. Yet we cannot allow them to hold a pistol at the head of society. Therefore the forceful actions that have been used to contain such activity are to be applauded.

But why do these things happen? Why do these people try to force their warped values on the rest of us? Surely, at the base of it all if the fact that

they have not seen the Light of the World; they have not found the Peace that passes understanding. Therefore, how can there be ease in our Southern Baptist Zion as long as these kinds of things are going on anywhere in the world? Somehow, somehow, somebody has failed; and more than likely it is all of us.

The world is too big; we can't get to all of it, might be the reply. This is true, and always there will be those who will insist on trying to force everyone else into their line of deviated reasoning. That must not deter us, however, from attempting to get our witness of the good news of salvation to everyone in the world before this century runs out. That is the challenge that Bold Mission Thrust has laid before us. And we surely had better be found trying just as intensely as we know how.

This is not a hit or miss proposition, as most Southern Baptist projects would seem to be labeled by our actions. We have no choice but to hit.

## Book Reviews

**MASTERPIECES OF RELIGIOUS VERSE** edited by James Dalton Morrison (Broadman, 701 pp., \$9.95). This is a superb collection of over 1500 poems with more than 1200 topics. It is well organized with the Index of Authors, the Title Index, the First Line Index, and the Topical Index. A valuable collection of poetry.

**CALCULATOR WORD GAMES** by Bennie Rhodes (Mott Media, 127 pp., \$2.25). Did you know your calculator can spell as well as calculate? Try the problems in this book and read the answer by turning your calculator upside down. There are sections on Searching for Bible Characters; Searching for Bible Words and Ideas; Having Fun at Church, and others. Learn Bible terms and names and have fun.

**THE HOLY BIBLE IN THE LANGUAGE OF TODAY: AN AMERICAN TRANSLATION** by William F. Beck (Holman, 339 pp., \$3.95). The passion of the translator's life was to make God's Word clear to everyone, to tell the gospel message in such a way that no one can fail to understand it. His goal was "to have God talk to the hearts of people in their language."

**THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE** by Myron and Mary Ben Madden (Broadman, \$5.95, 189 pp.). The Maddens talk to the people who are forty and above. "Now is the most exciting time in history to be alive — live it to the fullest," they say. With first Myron writing a chapter, and then his wife, Mary Ben, throughout the book, the two talk about the middle years — a time to get in charge, win, heal, and live. They believe it is not selfish to begin then to claim your own power. Myron is director of the Department of Pastoral Care at the Southern Baptist Hospital, New Orleans.

**DISCIPLINES OF THE BEAUTIFUL WOMAN** by Anne Ortlund (Word Books, \$4.95, 132 pp.). With charm and humor Anne Ortlund helps women see how they can eliminate the unessential from their everyday lives and have more time and energy for what is really important. There are plenty of specific hints for managing a schedule, maintaining a functional wardrobe, organizing a desk, or keeping a personal notebook. And there are sections on prayer and the beauty of the inner woman. How you live your life before God, she says, is the real you. This is a book for every woman.

**SPLENDOR IN THE ORDINARY** by Thomas Howard (Tyndale, 128 pp., \$2.95). Taking the activities and objects of the ordinary household, Tom Howard suggests that how we act in our house and the way we respond in the routines of life: eating, hosting, reprimanding, contemplating, working, playing, cleaning, can give us new insights to the eternal work of God.



## Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

I brought a pod of pepper home from Honduras and planted some of the seeds. Last summer I had a large green plant, but no peppers. I tended the plant through the winter, and this summer it was full of healthy red peppers. I was proud of my harvest.

I can understand now how much Mama cares for her garden and how much she trusts me when she says, "Take this bucket and pick some peas. But be sure to take only the ones that are filled out." If I don't follow her instructions I can easily ruin her crop.

Matthew pictures God as the Lord of the Harvest who trusts us humans to be His laborers.

"Go . . . and make disciples of all the nations . . ." These are Jesus' instructions.

Somebody has said that opportunity is like a horse. It is not like Grandpa's old horse Maude that just plodded along, but like Uncle Wendell's spirited beauties. It gallops up to you and stops for a moment. If you don't get on quickly the creature will soon be gone and you will be left standing there listening to the clattering hoofbeats fading into the distance.

If I fail to follow Jesus' instructions and miss opportunities to be a bold witness for Him, then I run the risk that a part of His precious harvest may be wasted.

Was it God's plan that a brilliant young university student from India and a kindergarten teacher from Pensacola and I meet in a laundry room in London? I believe it was. Joan and I had loaded a machine with clothes when we discovered we had no laundry soap.

With a friendly smile, dark-eyed Samar offered us the rest of his box of washing powder.

I wanted to say "Thank you. Now we have something to offer you — something far more important than soap." It must have been Satan who whispered to me, "Mind your own business. This fellow said he's a Hindu. He has a right to believe whatever he likes." It's a lot easier sometimes to write about your faith than it is to talk about it.

But Joan knows the meaning of lifestyle evangelism. Talking about Jesus and His love is as natural to her as breathing. The young man listened eagerly as she talked. He asked questions until our washing was finished, and then he wanted to know where we lived so he could see us again and continue the conversation.

Hardly a night passed after that, all summer, that we did not spend at least a few minutes talking to him, no matter how late. He cooked supper for us one night, and served us chicken curry. When we were catching the boat train to cross the English channel, he carried our heavy suitcases on the subway from Bloomsbury to Victoria Station. And he never appeared to tire of hearing more about Jesus.

Samar has a warm and responsive heart, and I believe that one day God will use him as one of His laborers.

God is Lord of the harvest and He has trusted me with it. If I follow his instructions, I can be sure He will give me the strength and the equipment to do whatever my part is.

## Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering

Goal: Each church will be encouraged to increase Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering in 1978 and 1979.

Time: Season of Prayer for State Missions, September 10-13, 1978, September 9-12, 1979.

Responsibility: WMU Council and Brotherhood Council; Church Council approves goal.

Description: 1. Goals are set on a year-by-year basis; information about goals will be communicated to pastors in the summers of 1978 and 1979.

2. Before setting goals, the WMU Council and Brotherhood Council should spend much time in prayer. Additional suggestions for setting goals are as follows:

(a) Look at the church's giving pattern for the past five years. Discuss trends. This discussion might relate to the Cooperative Program giving also in order that a giving pattern may be established.

(b) Determine how to arrive at a bold goal before setting the dollar amount. Consider a bold percentage increase over last year's goal or amount of actual offering, depending upon which was greater. Promote a percentage increase.

(c) Find out from the financial secretary the number of persons who have contributed to this offering in the past. As a bold goal, increase that number of contributors. Also find out the average gift made by church members to the offering. Set a bold increase in this amount.

(d) Develop a well planned promotion plan. Promote the offerings through the missions organizations as well as churchwide.

(e) Use the pulpit, Sunday School departments, Training Union departments and other places to motivate persons to give sacrificially to these offerings.

## Baptist Foundation And BMT

By Harold Kitchings

The Mississippi Baptist Foundation is excited about the Bold Mission Thrust for several reasons:

We are committed to supporting and undergirding the work of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and the Convention Board in implementing the Great Commission. We conceive the Bold Mission thrust as a deeper commitment on the part of Mississippi Baptists toward the accomplishment of this goal.

We believe the Bold Mission Thrust will afford us the opportunity for expanding the awareness of the ministry of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation. Therefore, with boldness we propose to proclaim with clarity what the purpose of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation really is.

## Bold Mission Thrust — Dream Or Reality?

By John Alexander, Director Stewardship Department

The theme of the day is BOLD MISSION THRUST. If this theme is to become an experience, the churches, all the churches must become involved.

They must become involved because it was to his churches Christ gave the Great Commission. Paul systematized this major responsibility of the churches and called on them to give their generous response. The churches must pray for missions and missionaries. The churches must keep the challenge for volunteers for missions before the membership. The churches must collect and send the money necessary to underwrite a world mission outreach.

The churches will never rise above the commitment to missions in the heart of the pastor. A pastor can completely ignore the call of missions.

When this is the case there is little, if any, response on the part of the church.

This writer, having served as pastor for 17 years, is convinced many of his brethren in the ministry will not study or preach on missions for fear of what it might lead to, a call to give one's life in the mission enterprise. Like Jonah of old, he embarks on a ship going in another direction from the presence of the Lord. It takes a major confrontation with God to get the attention of some of his servants.

The knowledge, of and commitment to missions, the main business of a church, remains on the back burner only because the pastor is willing for it to be so. Our only hope for world-wide witness in our time is in the fact that God still controls and uses the storms of life to get the attention of his reluctant prophets.

Baptist people, because of their love of the Word of God, have a weakness for missions. They need someone, however, to teach and inspire them to respond to their innate feelings.

Another reason some Baptists are turned off to missions was identified by Jesus when he said, "And he that was sown among the thorns, this is he that heareth the word; and the care of the world (present age), and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful" (Matt. 13:22).

Jesus is discussing the word of the kingdom, that inner communication between the King of heaven and the hearts of the members of the kingdom. It is that still small voice that those outside the kingdom do not recognize or understand.

Fruitlessness is due to one's over-involvement in the pressures and pursuits of the present age and the fallacious promise of happiness and prosperity at the end of the rainbow of earthly riches. Any Christian who has looked God squarely in the eye at this point knows exactly what I am talking about. It would cost too much to lay aside a lucrative business or profession and let God place you where he wants you to be doing what he wants

you to do: This is why in one mission agency alone there are over 1300 unanswered calls for men with preacher training and experience. A lot of us are deliberately not listening. Must we, like Jonah, take a trip to Tarshish before we are willing to remember the Lord and pay that which we have vowed?

The greatest thing a pastor can do for his church is tie it to an effort to share its faith with the rest of the world. It breathes new life into a dreary congregation. It helps a church to realize it is actually being the church, following the mandate of the Master, giving itself to something that will not pass away. Without the regular exercise of mission involvement, the church's muscles become flabby and the body is susceptible to all kinds of spiritual illness.

Before BOLD MISSION THRUST gets off the ground, the pastors of our churches will first get on their knees and lead their churches to follow them. As it has been, so it must be: "Now when they beheld the boldness of Peter and John, and had perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus . . . But Peter and John answered (the Sanhedrin) . . . We cannot but speak the things which we saw and heard . . . and they lifted up their voice to God with one accord and said, . . . grant unto thy servants to speak thy word with all boldness . . . and when they had prayed, the place was shaken wherein they were gathered together; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, AND THEY SPAKE THE WORD OF GOD WITH BOLDNESS" (Acts 4).

The remarkable results of this early prayer meeting were: unity within the church, Christian concern, effective witnessing, and generosity.

God's gracious gifts will again be poured out on his impenitent church when we let God possess us, direct us, and use us as he chooses. Can it start in your church?

BOLD MISSION THRUST — dream or reality?

**The Baptist Record**  
515 Mississippi Street  
Jackson, Miss. 39201

Don McGregor Editor  
Tim Nicholas Associate Editor  
Anne McWilliams Editorial Associate  
William H. Sellers Bus. Manager

Official Journal of  
The Mississippi Baptist Convention

Robert L. Hamblin President  
Earl Kelly Executive Secretary-Treasurer

The Baptist Building  
Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205

Baptist Record Advisory Committee: Clarence Wilkerson, Clinton; Gary Holland, Pascagoula; J. B. Fowler, Chairman, Meridian; Vance Dyess, Jackson; James Carr, Vice-Chairman, Jackson; Ferrell Cobb, Aberdeen.

Subscriptions \$3.00 a year payable in advance. Published weekly except week of July 4 and Christmas. Second Class Postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi.

The Baptist Record is a member of the Southern Baptist Press Association and the Evangelical Press Association.

## FMB Deliberate Priority Is Doubling Missionary Staff

Among a number of Bold Mission Thrust priorities, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has, "very deliberately" according to Keith Parks, director of the board's mission support division, "put as number one, a 100 percent increase in the missionary staff by the end of the century."

Says Parks, "We see the career missionary as demonstrating the incarnation principle — that to live among the people, to learn their language and culture, and communicate the gospel within that context, is to be a generating influence that will help accomplish their overarching purpose."

Some mission fields, anticipating an influx of short term volunteers, such as for the newly established Mission Service Corps, coordinators of lay involvement, determining procedures for working more effectively with volunteers.

The FMB is projecting missionary

beachheads in 125 countries by the end of the century — currently, they're in 89.

They want to multiply tenfold the number of overseas churches with accompanying increases in baptisms and church memberships. When this goal was set there were more than 7,300 overseas churches.

Other areas of special concern include work with youth of foreign countries and in developing special strategies for evangelism in the large cities of the world.

The medical program of the FMB should move into specialized medicine and lean toward preventive medicine with education as an aim.

"This is coupled," says Parks, with a massive use of media — directed where missionaries cannot be located — into China, Eastern Europe, and the Arab world. We are testing ways to do this better."